



## ***Media Release***

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Contact:

Misty George, District Manager  
Baca County Conservation District  
719.523.4522 ext 3  
[misty.george@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:misty.george@co.nacdnet.net)

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE JOHN STULP DEDICATED THE FIRST 50kW ON-FARM WIND TURBINE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S *ADVANCING COLORADO'S RENEWABLE ENERGY* GRANT



**Springfield, CO** - Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Stulp dedicated the first Entegriety 50kW wind turbine erected on a farm in Walsh, Colorado Friday, July 17, 2009.

Commissioner Stulp congratulated H<sub>2</sub>O Farms and the Fred Hefley family for being pioneers in front of a crowd of 100. The 50kW turbine will offset approximately 30% of the energy needs of pumping irrigation water for a center pivot sprinkler.

Farm owner Fred Hefley spoke of the many hurdles they circumnavigated to complete a project of this scope, and the many partners it took working together to make it happen. Because this is the first turbine of its size in the state, Hefley's were the first to attempt feasibility studies, finding insurance coverage, financing from banks, interconnection with the local utility company, etc. Mr. Hefley stated with the current economy "we couldn't have picked a worse time." But with much perspiration, perseverance, and a solid network of committed partners they pulled it off.

Mr. Hefley expressed gratitude to those collaborators: Southeast Colorado Resource Conservation and Development, Baca County Conservation District, Colorado State Bank, the Colorado Department of Agriculture's "*Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy*" (ACRE) grant, the International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology, Southeast Colorado Power Association, Entegriety Wind Systems, Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union, Baca County Farm Bureau, and McDonald Electric.

Commissioner Stulp said the ACRE program is "designed to help rural communities in Colorado by developing agricultural energy related projects which benefit both agriculture and the environment." H<sub>2</sub>O Farms' project will become the template for other ag producers to use as more farmers and ranchers step into the brave new world of small-scale wind generation for agriculture applications.